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PENSACOLA, FLORIDA, SUNDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 20, 1908.

LET THERE BE LIGHT

In the beginning, when the earth was without form and while yet darkness was on the face of the deep, the Word of Omnipotence was given, the first Divine Command was spoken: "Let there be light."

There was no sun, there was no moon, the stars which now glitter, millions of radiant central forces, had not been fixed within the unbounded firmament nor was there one wandering planet straying aimlessly and uncontrolled through the illimitable depths and blackest darkness of uncompromising night. The soul of man had not awakened and man's universe had not appeared.

"In the beginning," it was a date whose infinite remoteness baffles mortal comprehension. "The beginning." Beginning of what? Beginning of God? Impossible. Omnipotence, Omniscience and Omnipresence could have no beginning. To Him there could be no limit in time in place or in knowledge. He was, He is, He ever will be Light; and in the "beginning," as now and to the end of time, the one command, the one desire was and will be: "Let there be light."

"This thought is emphasized by the coming of Christmas day. It is a memorial of the time when the once Godlit souls of men had become so darkened, had suffered such an obscuration of the "Light" decreed from the "beginning," that the Word, the "Light" itself, impelled by a mercy beyond all human comprehension, veiled itself in flesh and descended to earth—our little earth and its human hotbed of faithlessness and folly—to tell us of the "Light," to show us the "Light," to let us know that the "Light" was, and is always will be triumphant over the darkness which it dispelled from the "beginning."

It certainly is melancholy to think that an offer of that kind could be refused. Yet Saint John in his gospel asserted that, even in his day, "The Light shineth in darkness and the darkness comprehendeth it not." The question for present-day Christians to think about is whether they comprehend it any better than was done by the world when the light from the skies and the voices of the angels first told the patient shepherds that the overlying Shepherd had come to feed His flock—that God had once more said: "Let there be light."

That is the Christmas idea. Light. It accounts for the joy of the season. It is the innate sense of exultation of the Christian peoples who live on the earth today. It is something that lifts them above their selfishness and compels them to think of—yes, to love—the Light. It is not a human conception. It is divine. It is the "Light" which from the "beginning" was sent abroad to tell the story that over the whole world there is a Father who will never give his children a stone when they ask for bread—and that is the summit of consolation.

Light. It is light we need today. Light to see ourselves. Light to see others as they are, not as the world may paint them. Light to understand and not to censure. Light to observe carefully and not to conclude to please prejudice. Light to be merciful. Light to forgive. Light to love. This is the Light that first came as a command from God and which the Christ came on the first Christmas to exemplify and instill into our hearts.

It means a great deal that as the year grows to a close this season of Christmas is celebrated. It means that the material things of the earth come to a close; that the merchant takes his stock, that business is balanced and profit and loss calculated; that the things of the world are decided, whether for better or worse, yet, that there is but one eternal and most merciful purpose of God: "Let there be light."

Gov. Hughes

On the Right Track.

It is refreshing to observe that Governor Hughes, of New York, seems to have caught the idea from the south that one of the greatest of all the evils in this country is the reckless speculative spirit that pervades the large centers of population. That the best thought of democratic southern states should have found an echo in New York is no less surprising than it is delightful.

The steady purpose of the south to eliminate the gambling evil has been shown by legislation covering many states and aimed against horse houses for dealing in futures and "bookies" on the race tracks. The latter evil is, of course, small when compared with the former and Governor Hughes unquestionably laid himself open to censure when he attacked it and failed to strike at the pestilence in Wall street, when he launched his anti-gambling crusade in the Empire state.

He seems, however, to have awakened to his senses, or else to have acquired a sense of security because of his recent victory, and has appointed a committee to investigate the methods of the stock exchange on Wall street. Small exception can be taken to this committee which is composed of Horace White, author and editor, Charles A. Schieren, a merchant and one-time mayor of Brooklyn; David Leaventritt, former justice of the New York supreme court; Clark Williams, State Superintendent of banks; John B. Clark, professor of political economy in Columbia university; Willard V. King, banker and president of the Columbia Trust company; Samuel H. Ordway, one of the best known of New York's lawyers; Edward D. Page, a merchant of the highest possible standing, and Charles Sprague Smith, a director of

the People's Institute of New York city.

The Review of Reviews stated many years ago that the redemption of the country would finally be due to the citizenship of the south; and, truly, it begins to look like it when the crusade levied in this section during the past ten or twelve years is having its effect upon a republican governor in New York.

We of the south without regard to political animosity, necessarily wish him every success in his invasion of Gotham's most cherished privilege—the opportunity to gamble at the expense of the world.

Rockefeller, Jr., seems to be much at odds with the newspapers. Is he walking in Teddy's footsteps, even when his respected parent is not permitted to do so?

Mayor Welles

Sets a Good Example.

It is pleasing to note that the idea of the City Beautiful, which has occupied the minds of the people of Pensacola for a long while and which is now the particular inspiration of the city government is spreading to many other cities and towns in Florida.

The Journal's special attention has been called to the action of the mayor of Plant City intended to promote the beauty of the municipality, of which he is chief magistrate. Mayor Welles has issued the following proclamation:

"In order to encourage the ladies in beautifying the homes of the city during the coming year, I will offer a prize of \$25 to be delivered as follows: Fifteen dollars as first prize and \$10 as second prize for the best kept front yard during the said year. In arriving at a decision in awarding the prize, the following will be observed, the whole number to be ten points, divided as follows: Size of space utilized; three points. Length of time yards kept in certain condi-

tion; three points. General arrangement of yard; one point. Cultivation of shrubbery; one point. Cultivation of roses, one point. Arrangement of grass plot, one point. Prizes to be awarded on October 15, 1909."

A committee has been selected to decide the contest and award the prizes to the successful competitors, all of whom must be ladies of Plant City, but unless there shall be at least twenty who shall enter the contest will be called off.

Plant City is to be congratulated that it has a mayor of such up-to-date ideas, of so progressive a spirit and of such a liberal disposition as to make this unselfish investment of cash for the welfare of his city. It shows a sincerity of purpose which will be certain to be rewarded by an aroused interest and a rivalry which will result in earnest activity along the proposed line and the aesthetic benefit of Plant City in no small degree.

And the effect of this offer of May or Welles will by no means be confined to his own environment. It is safe to prophesy that he will have many imitators. Civic pride in other communities will compel those in authority with the interests of their homes near at heart to make similar offers, so that this pebble cast by Mr. Welles will send ripples of enthusiasm throughout the state.

Dear Santa Claus: Please bring it.

Pensacola's Santa Claus will be omnipresent.

The pope has blessed Taft by proxy. Now, will he be good?

The heart may be warm no matter what the weather may be.

Tag Day tomorrow. You can't escape. Have your dollar ready.

Pensacola shoppers will have some busy days between now and Friday.

It is not always the longest stocking that has the largest stuffing.

Peace on earth? Yes; Roosevelt and the Kaiser and Hobson notwithstanding.

Last Saturday's St. Augustine Record wore an attractive colored cover in honor of Christmas.

The Journal fund for the poor has grown apace and will make many a home sad today merry on Friday.

There is a great deal of unnecessary talk, pro and con, on the question of draining the Everglades. As a matter of fact it has been established that the work can be done; that these millions of acres of the richest soil in the United States can be reclaimed; that it is a mere question of an investment which will be repaid a thousand fold. It may therefore be put down as a fact even by doubters, grumblers and those who oppose simply because the plan has been championed by Governor Broward, that the work will be accomplished before very long. And it will also be well to understand that no state, however broad in its territory, could fail to benefit by the opening up of new soil area for cultivation, especially when that area will be the richest for productive qualities in the United States.

SAGE LEAVES.

Back from that land

Which is mantled with snow,

To this Florida sand

Where the oranges grow!

My great-ory scheme

To shun heat and the cold—

A most popular theme—

Is now thirty years old.

The habit, each year

Seems more fixed than before;

While new methods appear

Never dreamed of in yore.

The lightning in harness

Is setting the fact,

That old iron horses

Must soon leave the track.

Had I but a life lease

Of fifty years more

These "rail rides" might cease

And collisions be o'er.

Whether rates to the planets

Will ever be made,

Is a question; to answer,

I'm somewhat afraid.

John D. Rockefeller

No ticket can buy

To carry a "feller"

To realms in the sky.

The only assurance

While here on the sod

Is through righteous endurance

To meet with our God.

No millions compare

In eternity's goal

With a life spent in care

For the needs of the soul.

THOS. McMILLAN.

An Inland Seaport.

At a business men's meeting in Atlanta there was under discussion an arrangement with the railroads that

allowed merchandise to be shipped to and from that inland city on a through bill of lading, says the New York Times.

There was much joyous declamation, and one orator explained in enthusiastic and well-rounded periods that Atlanta was now the equivalent of a seaport town and able to cope with all rivals. Upon this a Savannahian, whose native city is the real seaport of Georgia, arose and said with some acerbity:

"If you Atlantians were to lay a pipe line to the sea, and then suck as hard as you blow, you'd be a real seaport in no time at all."

NEWS AND VIEWS

By
the State
Press

Very True.

We note from one of our exchanges that a number of young men of this section have gone to Texas to better their condition. Florida affords opportunities for young men to succeed in what no other state can offer.—De Land Record.

Needn't Worry.

Director North of the census bureau, has estimated the cost of taking the next census in 1910, at thirteen millions in round numbers. No one need be troubled in this case by the fact that thirteen is an unlucky number, as by the time the job is done, it will probably cost double that amount.—Bartow Courier-Informant.

A Proper Paraphrase.

Occasionally we see a poor mule or beast of burden heavily taxed and beaten with many stripes, and we are reminded of "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain the kingdom of heaven." The same time we are most tempted to feel that damned should be the unmerciful. There is a law to protect helpless dumb animals and it is the duty of each and every citizen to see that they are protected.—Gainesville Sun.

New Hall Completed.

The new Masonic hall, which has been under construction for the past several weeks, is now completed, the last finishing touch having been applied yesterday afternoon by Mr. A. G. Armstrong, who has been in charge of that part of the building, and he it is said to his credit, Albert has put up a most creditable exhibition of his workmanship.—Bonifay Advertiser.

Surveying Drainage Area.

Messrs. W. A. Ginn and E. S. Close are now engaged in making a survey and for a radius of twenty-five miles adjacent to Sanford one vast garden spot, dotted with fine residences will result.—Sanford Herald.

Leesburg Improvements.

It is indeed gratifying to note that the town council has at last taken a definite step looking toward improved waterworks and also providing for electric lights. The matter has been under consideration for many months, at least. The first step has been taken in that it is expected that the work will progress as rapidly as possible until negotiations are concluded and the actual work of installation is begun.—Leesburg Commercial.

Original Propositions.

Hon. John S. Beard, erstwhile candidate for United States senator, may be depended upon for propositions which have a ring of originality. In failing in his joust against the constitution of the United States, he comes now with the proposition that the solid South still further solidify itself and throw its whole solid block of 120 votes for the several large states. Looks somewhat like the barter and sale idea rampant, with principle scurrying over the back fence. We guess we won't pay the price for the mess of pottage.—Lakeland News.

And now it is the castor bean which is being worked in the newspapers as a money crop for Florida. It is easy to find out all about the bean and its transformation into the oil of commerce, and the cost of the planting and harvest. This information can probably be had from the agricultural department at Washington by the expenditure of postage stamp, and it ought to be before anybody goes into the culture of the bean. Like the camphor tree, lately pushed to the front, it grows in Florida as if on its native heath, and if it can be converted into oil at a profit the people of this section ought to know it.—Tampa Times.

Fernandina's Revival.

With Fernandina's immense docks almost lined with vessels it is evident that a great revival of trade is now upon us, for a while at least, as there is also an unusually large amount of lumber ready for shipment. Neither is this activity confined to the shipment of lumber, since several large steamers are here for phosphate and naval stores and much of that product is also ready for shipment. As was remarked to us yesterday, "this looks like old times in Fernandina," not however, of many years ago, because our shipping has increased from years ago, but it reminds us of the business we were doing for some time before the panic of a year ago swept down upon us and paralyzed business everywhere. Anyhow, it is encouraging to note the improvement in the outlook, and the unmistakable evidences of better times ahead.—Fernandina Record.

Florida Rifle Range.

Florida is to have a national rifle range is made certain by the recent additional purchase by the United States government of 193.13 acres at Black Point, on the St. Johns, and within sight of Jacksonville. The government already owns 400 acres there, and with the 300 acres bought by the Jacksonville Board of Trade, for that purpose, the tract set aside for a permanent camp ground and target range for state and national troops, comprises nearly 700 acres. This rifle range, affording, as it does, an opportunity for rifle practice in winter, will become in a few years as famous as the one at Sea Girt, N. J., or that at Camp Perry, in Ohio. No better site for a permanent camping ground and a rifle range could be found in the South than the one which includes Black and Stoney Points. The fact that the national government now owns nearly 600 acres of that peninsula, purchased for the purpose of establishing a rifle range, makes it certain that one will be established. It now rests with the state government to put the camping grounds in fit condition for that purpose. The state legislature should take the matter up at the next session.—Jacksonville Times-Union.

Getting Good Results.

Commodore Beecher is delighted with the results obtained by the marines and enlisted men from the naval station at target practice on the rifle range at Woman Key. So far two of the men have filled all the preliminary requirements to qualify as sharpshooters and there is every indication that they will get the rating and the \$10 prize offered by the department. For the past two months the men have been having almost daily target practice on the range across the bay, in fact, the practice has not been interrupted a single day in that time by the weather. This is the one strong point which should appeal to the naval board to select this place for drills by the ships as well as the men. There is not a day in the entire year when drills in the open cannot be held.—Key West Citizen.

Our Visitor's Politics.

We appreciate very much the criticisms of some of our northern visitors on the political complexion of southern papers. We very freely hand over to them the best we have of everything—our climate, our products, our homes and our hearts, but because we have our private views, politically, we must not be judged too harshly. And then, southern newspapers are just exactly like northern papers, every look at matters political from opposite positions. There is one thing to note, however, which our northern friends should not overlook, and that is, everybody is free to think as he pleases without condemnation. The southern paper doesn't condemn a northern paper, but generously extends an invitation to all to come and partake of the benefits Nature has so kindly bestowed upon this southern climate without regard to their opinions.—Orlando Reporter-Star.

Ridder's Contribution.

Mr. Herman Ridder is credited with contributing \$37,000 to the national democratic campaign fund. Just think of it! \$37,000 of the real plunks of the realm! Of course the \$1 and the \$5 and the \$10 patriots felt real dizzy when they saw that \$37,000 staring at them in black letters, and it made them feel like small potatoes and few in a hill in comparison. But today the small fry don't feel so lonesome, for they are informed that the \$37,000 consisted of copies of editor Ridder's newspaper containing double headed editorials written especially for the cause. And these editorials were written in such a persuasive way that every Dutchman who could and did read them was supposed to be at once fall down on his marrow bones and take the oath of allegiance to Bryan. Great is Ridder and great is Money. Moreover, who contributed 15 cents of his filthy lucre and \$1,000 worth of his valuable time to the cause of collecting a lot of shakels from the patriots.—Apalachicola Times.

A Too Common Nuisance.

The board of county commissioners took a very good stand at one of its recent meetings against placarding trees on the right of way of the county roads. Another evil that users of roads, as well as residents of the city complain of, is indiscriminate throwing of hand bills on the roads, streets, into yards and houses. Hand bills are given to distributors, who are in the habit of giving them to boys. Their idea is to get rid of their bundle of bills as quickly as possible so that they can claim their wages. Their practice is to throw the bills by handful in any place or at any time the distributors may choose. The result may well be called a common nuisance. Yesterday the roads leading out of the city were literally covered by these annoyances. The News-Record would like to see the streets of the city and the roads of the county in a cleanly condition. It would like to see the distributors who take the handbill method of advertising, that the distribution of the bills causes annoyance to everybody, and instead of attracting custom, actually impels people to stay away from a store that makes a nuisance of itself.—Miami News-Record.

State Fair Prospects.

Every message of word or mail that comes to the management of the Florida state fair adds an item of encouragement to the gentlemen who are devoting their best efforts to the sacrifice of their personal interests, to the task of making the next fair a success. The response to their appeal has been much more enthusiastic and liberal than the management dared hope at the outset and they are now thoroughly convinced, not only that the fair of 1909 will be a success but that it will be, in many respects, a greater success than any of its predecessors.

It is difficult to overestimate the value of the state fair to Florida and to its every interest. The people realize the benefits that follow and the exhibit feature of the next fair will be both extensive and attractive. In cases where county commissioners have not seen fit to provide for county exhibits, individual citizens or associations of citizens have taken up the work. The counties which do not send exhibits to Tampa next February will regret their neglect of such a glorious opportunity to display their resources to the world. The regrets will then be too late; the chance will have been missed, the opportunity gone. The fortunate counties which show proper zeal in time will reap the rich rewards.

The Tribune wishes to impress, just here, upon the people of Florida generally, the ease with which exhibits may be made at a minimum of expense. It is necessary to be entailed in order to participate in these state fair benefits. Exhibit space is free; transportation is free. Hernandez's experience at the last fair is luminous with example to other counties. That county spent less than \$400 in preparing and placing its exhibits; it won \$3,000 in

prizes, besides all the advertisement attendant upon the achievement. A handsome cash profit, and, in addition, the vast and incalculable prize not counted in dollars. What county is there in Florida that would not reckon this an excellent investment?

The date of the fair is rapidly approaching and, after the usual hubbub of the Christmas holidays, there will be little more than a month in which to complete arrangements for participation in it. There is no time to lose on the part of counties and individual exhibitors who would make favorable showing at the great exposition. Get busy now.—Tampa Tribune.

PENSACOLA AND PENSACOLIANS

Playgrounds for school children are wanted by the citizens of Pensacola. Let the generous-hearted people respond liberally and this want will be readily filled.—Palatka Times-Herald.

Pensacola's new \$1,000 electric fountain has arrived and will be placed in the Plaza as soon as the concrete basin which is to surround it has been constructed. Electric pumps below the sprays will produce a brilliant effect at night. The fountain, as pictured in The Journal, will be very handsome.—Jacksonville Times-Union.

MINORITY REPRESENTATION.

Jacksonville Times-Union.

Mr. Thomas W. Lingle, of North Carolina through the columns of the Outlook proposes what he considers a practical plan for abolishing sectionalism. He proposes the dividing up of the electoral vote of each State in proportion to the popular vote cast in each—in other words minority representation in the electoral college from each state. Ambassador Bryce and Judge Clark of North Carolina are said to endorse the plan. It is claimed:

1. It would carry the national presidential campaign into every state of the union.
2. The presidential candidates of the two great parties would each, at every election, receive one or more electoral votes from each state in the union.
3. All talk about the "Solid South" and the "Solid North" would forever stop, as no such thing as either would exist.
4. Pivotal states would be put out of commission.

All these four accomplishments are desirable though the first is of little importance; but how are we to secure such a representation in the electoral college? It could not be accomplished by legislation for it would involve a radical change of the constitution. The constitution provides for the election of a president not by popular vote but by electors chosen by the states. These electors, in their choice, are not trammelled by law. A majority of the electoral college is expected to vote for Mr. Taft this year, but so far as any restraint of law is concerned, each man is free to vote as he wishes. The men are not legally bound by party ties. In the choice of electors the law knows no parties. Then if five were to be elected from Florida how could two of the five receiving the highest vote be declared not elected and two receiving fewer votes be declared elected?

Of course this change could be made by the proper legal methods, but it would cause great confusion in deciding who was elected. Such a law would divide the votes of small states, having an even number of votes, equally between the two candidates, unless one succeeded in winning a large majority over the other. For instance, in the election of 1900 the votes of Colorado, New Hampshire, Oregon, South Dakota and Washington would have been divided equally between Bryan and McKinley, each state giving each candidate two votes though all but one of the states were republican. If that rule had been in force in 1900 the electoral result would have been as follows:

	Dem.	Rep.
Alabama	5	5
Arkansas	5	5
California	5	4
Colorado	2	2
Connecticut	3	3
Delaware	1	1
Florida	3	3
Georgia	9	9
Idaho	2	1
Illinois	11	13
Indiana	7	7
Iowa	5	5
Kansas	5	5
Kentucky	7	6
Louisiana	6	2
Maine	2	4
Maryland	4	4
Massachusetts	6	9
Michigan	6	8
Minnesota	3	3
Mississippi	8	8
Missouri	9	1
Montana	2	2
Nebraska	4	4
Nevada	2	2
New Hampshire	4	4
New Jersey	4	16
N. Carolina	6	6
North Dakota	1	1
Ohio	11	12
Oregon	2	2
Pennsylvania	11	20
Rhode Island	1	1
South Carolina	8	8
South Dakota	2	2
Tennessee	7	7
Texas	12	12
Utah	1	1
Vermont	1	1
Virginia	7	7
Washington	2	2
W. Virginia	3	3
Wisconsin	1	1
Wyoming	1	2
Total	225	221

So this system would have resulted in the election of Bryan in 1900 by an electoral majority of two votes.

This would have been satisfactory to men of the Times-Union's way of thinking, but republicans would have been badly dissatisfied, and when we remember that they had a plurality of \$50,000 in the popular votes and car-

People in the Public Eye

Champ Clark, of Missouri, the new minority leader in the house of representatives, has in his life suffered two humiliating defeats. The first was in a nominating convention, the second in the Republican landslide of 1894. It was the first that chagrined him most. The convention was at deadlock, he and Richard Norton being the leading candidates. Their friends agreed to settle it by tossing up a silver dollar. Norton won and was elected, but the incident killed him politically. He became known as "Toss-up Dick" and at the end of his first term was retired from public life and public gaze.

There is no doubt whatever that "Gamshoe Bill" Stone will be returned to the senate. Governor Folk himself has put an end to the talk about a revolt against the primary decision. He is quoted as saying: "I agreed to abide by the decision of the Democracy as expressed at the polls, and I shall do so."

General S. M. B. Young, retired, former chief of the general staff, declares that the